

THE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, the greatest of artists, concern all artists. Mr. J. O. Halliwell, F.R.S., proposes a new edition in twenty folio volumes, corresponding in size with the convenient first collective edition of 1633. He proposes to give copious archaeological illustrations, a life of the poet, &c. There will be numerous illustrations, too, and these will be under the direction of Mr. F. W. Fairholt. The projector says that the preparation of this work has occupied his earnest attention for nearly twelve years. His object is to bring together, from the stores of Elizabethan literature, art, or science, whatever really tends to illustrate the pages of the great poet of the world, in the full conviction there yet remains room for one comprehensive edition which shall answer the requirements of the student and zealous inquirer. "Granting, he says, that the general spirit of Shakespeare may be appreciated without the assistance of lengthened commentary, it cannot be denied there is much which is obscure to the modern reader,—numerous allusions to the literature, manners, and phraseology of the times, which require explanation and careful discussion. This is a labour which has never yet been attempted on a large scale. In the preface to the translation of Karl Bimrock's *Remarks*, 8vo. 1850, I have shown there are upwards of two thousand obsolete words and phrases in Shakespeare left without any explanation in the editions of Mr. Knight and Mr. Collier. Here is, undoubtedly, a field of criticism, which deserves the labour of the student; and without attempting to supply all these deficiencies, it may still be allowed me, without presumption, to promise an extensive advance on what has been accomplished by my predecessors." The impression is to be strictly limited to 150 copies, and each copy will have the printer's autograph certificate that that limit has been preserved. All the plates and woodcuts used for this are to be destroyed, and no separate impressions of any of them will be taken off. Long training, much learning, and large collections bearing on the subject, peculiarly fit Mr. Halliwell for the heavy undertaking he proposes. The list of subscribers will, there is no doubt, soon be more than filled, and public libraries should at once apply. We cordially wish him health to complete the important task he has entered upon.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS OF PARIS.—In the statistical section of the British Association at Belfast, one of the secretaries read a paper by the late Mr. G. R. Porter, of the Board of Trade, on the "Productive Industry of Paris," from which it appears that the total number of workmen employed in 1847 was 342,530,—viz. 204,925 men, and 112,891 women, with 24,714 children and young persons—which fell in 1848 to 156,125, being a diminution of 54 per cent. The chief falling off was in furnishing, where the reduction was 73 per cent. and the least was in the preparation of food, which only fell off 19 per cent. The latest value of the productions of Parisian labour in 1847 was 58,545,134*l.* and in 1848 only 27,100,964*l.* The falling off in consumption was very remarkable. The quantity of flesh meat consumed in Paris in 1847 was 150 lbs. per head; in 1848 it fell to 97*½* lbs. per head. After affairs settled down again, it rose in 1849 to 146 lbs. per head, and in 1850 reached 158 lbs. per head. Out of the entire number of workmen, 147,311, or 57 per cent. could read and write. Out of 86,617 women, 68,219, or 79 per cent. could read and write. The rate of weekly wages was given on an average as follows:—Carpenters, 2*7s.* 4*d.*; cabinetmakers, 20*s.* 3*d.*; masons, 18*s.* 9*d.*; tailors, 20*s.* 2*d.*; butchers, 19*s.* 7*d.*; jewellers, 31*s.* 9*d.*; bakers, 19*s.* 7*d.*; shoemakers, 16*s.* 6*d.*; confectioners, 21*s.* 9*d.*; milliners, 20*s.* 3*d.*; laundresses, 12*s.* 3*d.* It was found that 950 women earned less than 6*d.* per diem; 27,452 males, and 100,050 females, earned 6*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; 157,216 men, and 626 women, earned 2*s.* 5*d.* to 4*s.*; and 10,393 more than 4*s.* It is the practice of the Paris workmen to work part of the day on Sunday, but they invariably make a holiday on Monday, most of their wages being lavished in enjoying themselves on that day. Those who can earn

the most money are found to save the least, as they extend the Monday holiday into other days of the week.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

The following resolution was passed at the last meeting of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers:—"Resolved, that inasmuch as it appears to the Court that the cholera is rapidly approaching this country and metropolis, and it is urgently necessary for the public health that foul open sewers and ditches should be covered over, and other aggravated nuisances removed; and, inasmuch as the commissioners have failed in their endeavours, under the existing law, to raise the sums required for the execution of such works by loan on the security of the sewer-rates, it is, in the opinion of this court, expedient and necessary that immediate application be made to her Majesty's Government for a temporary advance of such a sum as will enable the commissioners to execute the works of urgent necessity above adverted to; and it is ordered that it be referred to a committee of the entire body of commissioners, to consider and determine the most convenient mode of bringing the subject to the notice of her Majesty's Government, and that such committee be authorised and empowered to communicate with the Government for such purpose; and ordered further, that the committee be summoned for Tuesday next, the 14th inst. at eleven o'clock a.m. at this office, for the consideration of the said matters." The result of this discussion is not yet known.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SCHOOL COMPETITION.

The observations on this subject in a recent number are correct, but do not go to the full extent in exposing a practice now on the increase amongst architects,—that of attaining, by cunning canvass, or by private interest, the preference which merit only ought to receive. Of the competitors several have not only sent lithographed plans, with letters and commentaries, to the committee, but have also used personal solicitations, not confining their arguments in favour of their own productions, but using, perhaps, a friendly opportunity of view afforded them for the condemnation of the designs by others. If such practices are permitted, there is an end to free and fair competition, for the committee which has to decide the selection on intrinsic merits only, ought to receive and open all the plans at the same sitting, without being pre-advised or solicited by any of the competing architects. What will be thought of professional men who have touted every individual on the committee before any plans were sent in? Or of such a proposition as offering to present a coloured and elaborate design which should be worth 40*l.*? There are examples of similar tricks, tried successfully, too, on similar occasions. Many recent competitions illustrate the futility of a selection by anonymous tender, as well as the deceit of using mottoes which are known. Common justice would imply, that when the condition of a proposal is the suppression of the proposer's name, all who might violate that postulate (much less tout and canvass for preference) should be wholly excluded.—SPEC.

THE LATE MR. J. W. ALLEN, THE ARTIST.

We are glad to find that the subscription for a fund to provide for the widow and eight children of Mr. Allen, whose death we have already mentioned, is progressing favourably. Mr. Allen was born at Paradise-row, Lambeth, in the year 1803. On leaving St. Paul's school, he assumed his father's vocation as an usher at a school at Tamworth; but the employment proved unsuitable to the clever and vivacious young man; and his talent for drawing and painting having early developed itself, he returned to London. He had, of course, great difficulties to master, and he did not disdain to paint very humble subjects; he used to say he did not think his most finished landscape ever produced so much fervent admiration as his imitation of a Venetian blind during this period of his probation; and it is said a specimen of this early demonstration of his ability may yet be seen in a coffee-shop at Mile-end. We will not attempt to follow his life. Suffice it that by the force of his talent he made himself recognised as an able depicter of English scenery. His "Vale of Clwd," ex-

hibited a few years since, created a considerable sensation. This picture was purchased by a printheholder in the Art Union of London for a large sum, at a moment, as we have heard him say, when it was of vital service to him. Mr. Allen took, as is well known, an active part in establishing "The Society of British Artists," and attached himself to it with great devotion. He was also Professor of Drawing at the City of London School from its foundation; and the fact that the School has given fifty guineas to the widow and family, the headmaster, the Rev. Dr. Mortimer, ten guineas, and the other masters twenty guineas, shows the extent to which he was appreciated by them.

SEWAGE MANCÆ.—On Thursday, in last week, the chairman of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, Mr. R. Jebb, with Major Dawson, R.E. Mr. G. Spencer Smith, Mr. J. Redhead, and the secretary, Mr. Woolrych, met Mr. Stothert, of Bath, and other gentlemen interested in sanitary matters, at Richmond, pursuant to appointment, to witness Mr. Stothert's experiments in the deodorizing and precipitation of sewer water. The experiments were performed near the gasworks, at the confluence of two sewers, smells from which have long been complained of as a nuisance. A quantity of the sewage was poured into several glass vessels, into some of which Mr. Stothert put a little of his powder, stirring it for a few seconds. After this, in the course of about four minutes, it is said, a precipitation of solid matter took place, leaving the supernatant liquor clear like spring water, and free from smell. The next experiment was to pour some of the clear water of the former experiment into a quantity of the sewer water in its natural state as taken from the open sewer. By this the sewer water is said to have been instantly deprived of its offensive smell, the fermentation being checked and the gases fixed, the sewage otherwise preserving its previous appearance, and no precipitation taking place. The precipitate, after being dried, is proposed to be applied in a way similar to guano, and to which it is considered equal in value. The clear water containing fertilising salts is applicable as liquid manure, or for flushing, and at the same time deodorizing, the sewers. The commissioners present are reported to have declared themselves satisfied with the deodorizing and clarifying power of the agents employed, and to have expressed a hope that the process might, with the least possible delay, be carried out on a large scale for the benefit of the metropolis.

STEAM CARRIAGE.—Three gentlemen of Newark, N. Y. have associated for the construction of a steam-carriage, calculated to run on common roads, but designed more particularly for the plank road between that city and New York. An average speed of ten miles an hour is expected, with a power as economical as that of horses. An American paper contains a description of a similar vehicle, the floor of which is 14 feet from the ground, and the roof arranged for the accommodation of outside passengers. The machinery is inclosed within the carriage, and the steam is emitted through a small aperture, so that horses will not be frightened. The machine, it is said, will be guided by a man stationed behind.

MANUFACTURE OF MINERAL PIGMENTS.

—Mr. Newton, of Chancery-lane, has taken out a patent, being a communication, for the manufacture of pigments from serpentine and other similar minerals, containing magnesia and oxide of iron in combination with silicic acid, so as to obtain a base which may be united with other colouring matters. To produce a blue, for instance, the serpentine is finely powdered, and to every 100 lbs. are added 10 lbs. of prussiate of potash, dissolved in 40 lbs. of hot water. When well mixed by stirring, 25 lbs. of sulphuric acid in 25 lbs. of water are added, and after a short time the mass becomes converted to a fine blue pulp. About 50 lbs. of water are added to dissolve out the soluble salts, and the mixture is left to stand thirty-six hours, when the water is drawn off, and the residue washed, dried, and ground with oil.